

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

HISTORY HAPPENS HERE

2007

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, history applies the measure of time to the actions and civic discourse of today, conveys perspective to understand people and society, and prepares citizens for the future by deriving lessons from the past; and

WHEREAS, history enlivens and enlightens education at all levels, especially fourth and eighth grade, and enhances research through the more than 16,000 books about North Carolina history that are sold and distributed annually through the Office of Archives and History; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's 27 state Historic Sites and 7 Museums of History offer superb educational opportunities for young and old, attracting more than 2 million people annually; and

WHEREAS, more than 550 private and community-based facilities, such as museums, historic house museums, libraries and archives help 8.5 million citizens in all 100 counties of the state appreciate their authentic heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's proud history includes the first English settlement in the New World in 1587, first formal sanction of independence with the Halifax Resolves in 1776, first state university to open its doors in 1795, first discovery of gold in the United States in Cabarrus County in 1799, first powered flight in Kitty Hawk in 1903, first state Symphony established in 1930, state Art Museum in 1947, first rural national parkway at the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1935, first National Seashore at Cape Hatteras in 1937, and people who make a difference in our daily lives including the visionary scientists who created the geodesic dome in 1948, discovered the cancer fighting drug Taxol in 1962, and developed the HIV treatment AZT in 1985; and

WHEREAS, native people have lived here for at least 12,000 years, and their descendants today make up the largest native American population of any state east of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is proud to have 2,560 individual structures and 450 districts on the National Register of Historic Places, 1,495 Highway Historical Markers across 100 counties, and more than 40,000 recorded archaeological sites showcasing our heritage for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Archives and History since 1903 has promoted the protection and preservation of North Carolina's written history, documents, records, and heritage in all its forms, serving more than 75,000 citizen requests in the past year ensuring that the state is a better place through cultural exchange and historical awareness; and

WHEREAS, history contributes to all aspects of social life and kindles an emerging creative economy fueled by the growth of cultural tourism which contributes up to 40 percent of all tourism revenues in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, history programs in the state are nurtured through the continued support of the Department of Cultural Resources; and

WHEREAS, our state recognizes the immense value of the history to American society by designating 2007 as History Happens Here Year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the state of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim 2007 as a year of celebration of "HISTORY HAPPENS HERE" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to discover and participate in the wide variety of programs available to them in our urban centers and rural communities.



MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh on the 11th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and six and of the Independence of the United States of America two hundred and thirty-first.